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June 25, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

This year, your Board proclaimed Public Health Week in Los Angeles County, April 6 through 12, 2015. With your support, Los Angeles County joined in the national celebration of Public Health Week sponsoring local events to educate County residents about leading longer, healthier lives, and showcasing the impact of public health programs and services in protecting and improving the health of County residents and communities.

The Department of Public Health hosted three Public Health Expos for County employees and the community in observance of National Public Health Week. Over 1,100 County employees joined the launch of the Countywide Fitness Challenge - "Kick Start a Healthier You" on April 7 at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles. For the second year in a row, DPH and the Department of Human Resources rolled out an initiative to improve the health of the County's nearly 100,000 employees. This collaboration is an important component of Los Angeles County's effort to keep its workforce healthy.

There were 36 participating agencies and programs, which provided health screenings, information on important public health topics, such as immunization, emergency preparedness and response, nutrition, injury prevention, food safety, women's health, childhood lead prevention, hepatitis, and tobacco cessation. Employees also participated in physical activity demonstrations and two successful pet adoptions.

On April 11, 2015, DPH partnered with the City of Los Angeles in holding a community health fair at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument (Olvera Street). More than 1,200 people attended this event. Lining the circular plaza were 43 participating agencies, programs, and mobile facilities that provided the community with free health screenings (such as dental, vision, hearing, blood pressure, blood sugar, HIV, and cholesterol) and information on a variety of health topics, such as childhood lead poisoning prevention, food safety, diabetes, viral hepatitis, and child passenger safety. As part of the outreach event, the community received "Healthy Bingo" activity booklets, Choose Health LA educational materials, toothbrushes, bookmarkers, and other materials to promote steps to make healthier choices. Live entertainment was provided by Mariachi Los Toros, the USC Trojan Dance Team, Groov3 dance group, and a Mexican ballet folklórico group. Attendees had a chance to get up and get active during many of the performances.

The following week, DPH, in partnership with the departments of Animal Care and Control and Parks and Recreation, hosted a Healthy Pet Expo. The event, held at Whittier Narrows Recreation Park, promotes the public's health by recognizing that the health of our communities is intricately linked with the well-being of our pets. Over 1,800 dogs and cats with their owners attended the event, which included pet adoptions. Services provided to the community by key partners included low-cost vaccinations, low-cost spay/neutering, nail trimming services, and other veterinarian care for pets. Pet owners were able to take photos with their dogs at a free pet photo booth, enter their dogs into contests, and receive vital information from 34 participating agencies and programs at the park. At the end of the day, hundreds of pets were vaccinated, 47 pets were spayed/neutered on-site at the Healthy Pet Expo, and over 500 low-cost spay/neuter appointments with our community partner agencies were generated as a direct result of the Healthy Pet Expo.

With your support, Los Angeles County held successful Public Health Week events enjoyed by employees, their families, and the public, who learned about vital public health programs and services available to them and how to lead longer healthier lives.

CAH:pt

Attachment

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Interim County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Scenes from the Public Health EXPO 2015 for LA County Employees, Grand Park



Scenes from the Public Health EXPO 2015 for the Community, Olvera Street



Scenes from the Healthy Pet EXPO 2015, Whittier Narrows Recreation Area

